

REMARKS

Claims 1-9,11,13-17, 19-20,22,23,24,28,29 are pending. Claims 10,12,18 21, 25-27 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 are found in as-filed claim 18, and at page 5, lines 25-30 of the as-filed application. Support for each amended dependent claim is found in the as-filed claim of same number.

Claim 20 has been objected to in that it depends from cancelled claim 12.

Applicant has made claim 20 dependent from claim 1.

Claims 11,24,28-29 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

The Examiner took the position that the phrases "a lower hardness", "a higher hardness" "a lower thickness" and "a larger thickness" are indefinite.

Applicant has amended these claims to make them more clear.

Claims 1-4, 9 13-17, 20 and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,867,728 (Stubstad) in view of US Published Patent Application 2004/0133278 (Marino).

Since claim 1 now contains the limitations of claim 18, which was not rejected in light of the Stubstad/Marino combination, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 USC103 as being unpatentable over Stubstad and Marino in view of Fraser (USP 6, 592,624).

None of the cited references disclose a pin received in a recess within the device. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is now patentable over this cited combination.

In a telephonic interview of March 8, 2005, the Examiner indicated that amending claim 1 to recite the elements of FIG. 3c (namely, a pin in a recess) could be allowable. Applicants have made the change suggested by the Examiner. The undersigned thanks the Examiner for her helpful cooperation and is appreciative of the courtesy extended to the undersigned in conducting and after-final interview.

In addition, please provide any extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 10-0750, but do not include any payment of issue fees.

Should there be any remaining or further questions, the Examiner is requested to please contact the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,

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